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The US government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Nepal), has provided \$350,000 to reduce the incidence and impact of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Banke, Bardiya, Dang, Dailekh, Kailali and Surkhet districts of mid-western Nepal, says a release from US Embassy.

GBV is an acute human rights challenge in many conflict affected areas of Nepal. The 11-year conflict severely exacerbated the unequal power relationships between men and women, increasing women's vulnerability to numerous forms of exploitation including rape, domestic violence, verbal and psychological abuse, and physical and sexual torture. Damage to traditional social and economic networks, loss of male heads of household, forced displacement, and reduced access to health and educational facilities dramatically diminished women's abilities to safeguard their wellbeing and that of their families.